

July 21, 2000

to build our communities and in its desire to ensure a fair wage for its hard working members.

I am pleased to say that it has been successful in its goals. Without the expertise and reliability of its Craftsmen, the tremendous growth that Somerset and Hunterdon Counties have achieved in the last century would not have been possible. Be it the homes we live in or the buildings we work in, the importance of excellent craftsmanship cannot be overlooked. Thanks to the efforts of Carpenters' Local #455, the foundation of Central New Jersey's development has been a firm and secure one.

The Somerville Carpenters Local Union #455 is a great asset to both Central New Jersey and our Nation. I urge all my colleagues to join me today in recognizing its dedication to Central New Jersey's development and workers.

OUTSTANDING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, the following graduating high school students from the First Congressional District of New Mexico have been awarded the Congressional Certificate of Merit. These students have excelled during their academic careers and proven themselves to be exceptional students and leaders with their scholastic achievements, community service, and participation in school and civic activities. It is my pleasure to be able to recognize these outstanding students for their accomplishments. Their parents, their teachers, their classmates, the people of New Mexico and I are proud of them.

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT AWARD WINNERS 2000

Albuquerque High School, Calesia Cole; Bernalillo High School, Sobeida M. Quintana; Del Norte High School, Adam Bill; Eldorado High School, Katrina Petney; Estancia High School, Lorenzo Maes; Evangel Christian Academy, Joy Henderson; Evening High School, Hope Castillo; Freedom High School, Crystal Torres; Hope Christian School, Nicholas Targhetta; La Cueva High School, Danielle Jung; Los Lunas High School, Kristian Shaffer; Menaul High School, Daniel Chapman; Moriarty High School, Stephen Joosten; Mountainair High School, Anna Luna; New Futures High School, Yadira Escalante; Rio Grande High School, Rebecca Pauline Baca; School on Wheels, Ralph J. Alires; Sandia High School, Bonnie Saul; Sandia High School, Francheska Bardacke; Sandia Preparatory School, Michelle Lee Milne; Sierra Alternative High School, Geoff Joslin; St. Pius X High School, Antonio Sandoval; Valley High School, Brenda Bustillos; West Mesa High School, Julia Hartmann; and West Mesa High School, Que Huong Dong.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF REVEREND HOWARD STARK

HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate Reverend Howard Stark on the occasion of his retirement as the Minister of Faith Temple in Alexander City, Alabama. The time of one's retirement is always a significant event as is the change in the ministry of a church. However, this is truly a significant event. Reverend Stark, at the age of 89, is retiring after over 60 years as the Minister of Faith Temple. To put this in perspective, he became the minister of this church before World War II began. It is said that the measure of one's worth is the effect one has had on the lives of others. It is impossible to imagine the number of lives Reverend Stark has touched during his ministry and what his ministry has meant to this church and this community. I want to join Reverend Stark's family and friends and his beloved church as they pay tribute to this most remarkable man and his wife, Wynema.

TRIBUTE TO M.T. PHELPS

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take a moment to recognize one of my constituents, Mr. M.T. Phelps, who will be turning 100 years old next month. Born on August 9, 1900 in the hills of Columbus, Georgia, Mr. Phelps has lived exactly the sort of simple, yet exceptional life that most of us desire.

Mr. Phelps met his future wife, Allene Rickman, at church as a young man and soon married her on March 12, 1927. After working several years in the sunshine of Florida, Mr. Phelps moved to my district in 1933 when he came to Lillington to take a position as Superintendent of Rickman Brick. Mr. and Mrs. Phelps were soon blessed with the births of three lovely children, Mary Ann, Marion "Rick" and Emily Francis, whom they supported in all their academic and athletic endeavors. Throughout it all, Mr. Phelps not only successfully fulfilled his role as an outstanding husband and father, but also as a diligent and dedicated worker at the Rickman Brick company, Womble's General Store, and finally O'Quinn and O'Quinn's Funeral Home. In fact, Mr. Phelps remained at O'Quinn's until his much-deserved retirement at the ripe old age of 85.

In addition to his numerous responsibilities at home and in the workplace, Mr. Phelps has also discovered time for himself and his community. In an ideal example of civic-minded selflessness, Mr. Phelps for years has allowed the local Kiwanis organization to use his home as the site for their annual Halloween haunted

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house. Mr. Phelps has been a Mason since the 1930s and was a supporter of the old Lillington High School Booster Club. Finally, Mr. Phelps, as a conservationist, has always loved nature and enjoyed the simple pleasures associated with the land. His reputation as a hunter and a trainer of good hunting dogs has preceded him throughout our community.

Although we are marking the occasion of his 100th birthday tonight, this is a tribute we could provide Mr. Phelps on any day. I am truly privileged to represent people like M.T. Phelps in this United States Congress. M.T. Phelps is a good worker, a good husband, a good father, a good citizen, and, above all, a good man.

COMPREHENSIVE RETIREMENT SECURITY AND PENSION REFORM ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL ARCHER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2000

Mr. ARCHER. Mr. Speaker, I am submitting for the RECORD under general leave on H.R. 1102, the "Comprehensive Retirement Security and Pension Reform Act," the attached exchange of letters between myself and Chairman GOODLING.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 18, 2000.

Hon. WILLIAM F. GOODLING,
Chairman, Committee on Education and the Workforce, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GOODLING: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 1102, the "Comprehensive Retirement Security and Pension Reform Act" and H.R. 4843, the "Comprehensive Retirement Security and Pension Reform Act of 2000."

As you have noted, the Committee on Ways and Means has ordered favorably reported H.R. 4843, the "Comprehensive Retirement Security and Pension Reform Act of 2000." In order to expedite consideration of H.R. 1102, I appreciate your agreement that the text of H.R. 4843 be made in order as an Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute to H.R. 1102. This is based on the understanding that I would continue to work with you to include the agreed upon pension provisions within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Education and the Workforce in the final conference report on H.R. 1102 and that I would not object to your request for conferees with respect to matters within the jurisdiction of your Committee when a conference with the Senate is convened on this legislation.

Finally, I will include in the Record a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter during floor consideration. Thank you for your assistance and cooperation in expediting this matter.

Sincerely,

BILL ARCHER,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE
WORKFORCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, July 17, 2000.

Hon. BILL ARCHER,

Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ARCHER: I am writing to confirm our mutual understanding with respects to further consideration of H.R. 1102, the "Comprehensive Retirement Security and Pension Reform Act," which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition, to the Committee on Education and the Workforce and the Committee on Government Reform. I understand that the House will consider this bill in the near future. As you know, on July 14, 1999, the Committee on Education and the Workforce ordered favorably reported H.R. 1102, H. Rept. 106-331, Part I.

The Committee on Education and the Workforce has jurisdiction over pension provisions amending the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA), which are contained in Title VI, of H.R. 1102. With your agreement, several of these ERISA provisions were included in the Conference Report to H.R. 2488, the "Financial Freedom Act of 1999."

I understand that the Committee on Ways and Means has approved H.R. 4843, the "Comprehensive Retirement Security and Pension Reform Act of 2000." H.R. 4843 amends the Internal Revenue Code, but does not include any corresponding ERISA pension amendments. In order to expedite consideration of H.R. 1102, I do not object to the House of Representatives considering the text of H.R. 4843 as an Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute to the Education and the Workforce reported version of H.R. 1102. However, I appreciate your willingness to work with me to assure that the ERISA provisions contained in H.R. 1102, as reported by the Committee on Education and the Workforce, are added in any conference agreement. I also appreciate your support in my request to the Speaker for the appointment of conferees from my Committee with respect to matters within the jurisdiction of my Committee when a conference with the Senate is convened on this legislation.

Thank you for agreeing to include this exchange of letters in the Congressional Record during the House debate on H.R. 1102. Again, I thank you for working with me in developing this legislation and I look forward to working with you on these issues in the future.

Sincerely,

BILL GOODLING,
Chairman.

IN HONOR OF MR. MICHAEL VIRGIL, SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE, CARIBBEAN FIELD DIVISION OF THE U.S. DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Mr. Michael Virgil, Special Agent in Charge of the Caribbean Field Division of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), for all of his achievements on behalf of the United States and to congratulate him on such a noteworthy and honorable career.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

Since joining the DEA in 1973, Mr. Virgil has continuously put himself in harms way to protect this country. Through his numerous foreign and domestic assignments, Mr. Virgil has made a career of fighting drug traffickers and drug cartels both here and abroad.

As the Assistant Country Attaché in Mexico City, Mr. Virgil oversaw the intelligence and enforcement operations. He also led the efforts of the Northern Border Response Force, a multi-agency program responsible for the seizure of more than 140 metric tons of cocaine and more than 2,000 arrests in a five-year period.

In addition, Mr. Virgil spearheaded the development and implementation of Operation Triangle, Operation Unidos, Operation Unidos II, and Cobra. In each of these programs, Mr. Virgil sought to create relationships between Mexico and other Central American countries to seal off drug-trafficking activities in Mexico.

Throughout his twenty-seven year career with the DEA, Mr. Virgil's dedication and service have not gone unnoticed. Mr. Virgil has been the recipient of numerous performance and achievement awards, including the Administrator's Award for Exceptional Service.

Mr. Virgil graduated with honors from the New Mexico State University, with a Bachelor's degree in Police Science and Criminology.

For his almost thirty years of dedicated duty in fighting the threat that drugs pose to our society, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking and honoring Michael Virgil.

INTRODUCTION OF "JAKE'S LAW"—THE JUSTICE THROUGH ASSURED KNOWLEDGE AND ENFORCEMENT (JAKE) ACT OF 2000

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a little boy who, five months ago this Saturday, was tragically lost to his family. On February 22nd of this year, in Independence, Missouri, six year old Jake Robel was sitting in his mother's car when it was stolen. Jake got caught in the seat belt attempting to flee the car and was dragged to his death at speeds up to 80 miles per hour. The man accused of this horrific act had been released from jail that day, even though he had an outstanding warrant for his arrest. This senseless tragedy could have been avoided had a background check been made prior to the suspect's release from jail. In Jake's memory, I will introduce the Justice through Assured Knowledge and Enforcement Act of 2000, or "Jake's Law", which will require a comprehensive warrant check prior to release of prisoners.

The Greater Kansas City community has rallied around this effort. Concerned parents and citizens have joined together to urge that Jake's Law become a reality. In addition to the over one million signatures they have collected on petitions, they have also held town meetings, which my staff and I have attended, to make their concerns known. I am intro-

ducing this legislation today in order to make sure their voices are heard, and Jake is remembered.

Jake's Law will establish a nationwide prerelease records check system so that local law enforcement agencies will have immediate access to prisoners' records in jurisdictions throughout the United States. All law enforcement agencies will be required to integrate this mandatory warrant check into their standard prerelease procedure. Jake's Law does not federalize any crime or infringe upon state's rights. It simply ensures the cooperation and communication needed to safeguard people from individuals who should remain imprisoned.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the House to support this common sense legislation, and prevent another tragedy like Jake Robel.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote number 421 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted yes.

During rollcall vote number 422 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted yes.

During rollcall vote number 423 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted no.

During rollcall vote number 424 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted yes.

During rollcall vote number 425 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted yes.

During rollcall vote number 426 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted yes.

During rollcall vote number 427 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted no.

During rollcall vote number 428 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted no.

SAN DIEGO'S NO. 1 PICK IN BASEBALL DRAFT: ADRIAN GONZALES

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a young man who last month graduated from Eastlake High School in my congressional district and who has attained the highest success in his field—the baseball field. Adrian Gonzales led his league with 37 RBIs and finished the season just shy of a .600 batting average. But for Adrian, it gets even better. Earlier this month, he was selected as the Number One pick in the nation for the Major League Amateur Draft.

It is important to acknowledge that the Florida Marlins rewarded Adrian's drive, consistency, and talent, as well as his willingness to